

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

The following is a listing of the claims and their status. Please cancel claims 6, 7, 9, 10 and 11, and amend the remaining claims as follows:

1. (currently amended) A method for processing and chemically disinfecting infectious waste material, comprising the steps of:

transporting a wheeled enclosure containing lift and dumping means, a hopper, grinding and grating means, immersion vat means, conveyor means, suction and filter means, ~~a source of power~~ an electrical generator driven by a petroleum fuel engine, a source of chemical disinfectant, and a source of fresh water, to a location where infectious waste material is stored;

placing said infectious waste material into a cart, placing said cart on said lift and dumping means, and dumping said infectious waste material into said hopper;

feeding said infectious waste material from said hopper to said grinding and grating means and grinding, grating, and macerating it into waste particles of a small size range of confetti-like material which is unrecognizable as to the source;

spraying said infectious waste material with a chemical disinfectant as it is fed to said grinding and grating means and again after grinding, grating, and macerating it;

immersing said waste particle material in said chemical disinfectant contained in said immersion vat means;

after immersion, conveying said waste particle material from said vat means to the exterior of said wheeled enclosure in an enclosed screw conveyor system and mixing said waste particles and said chemical disinfectant together as they are conveyed therein;

drying utilizing the exhaust heat of said petroleum fuel engine to dry said waste particle material it while it is being conveyed during said steps of grinding, grating, macerating, spraying, immersing and conveying in said enclosed screw conveyor system;

subjecting said grinding and grating means, and said enclosed screw conveyor system to negative air pressure as said particles are being ground, grated, macerated, and conveyed, and venting the air through a filter to remove chemical fumes, airborne dust particles, odors, and bacteria therefrom; and

discharging said dry confetti-like material from said enclosed screw conveyor system.

2. (original) The method according to claim 1, wherein

said steps of spraying and immersing said waste particles in a chemical disinfectant comprises immersing said waste particles in a liquid solution of sodium hypochlorite (NaOCl) containing an effective concentration of hypochlorous acid (HOCl) sufficient to produce at least a 4 Log₁₀ reduction in the numbers of active microorganisms present in said waste particles.

3. (original) The method according to claim 1, wherein

said steps of spraying and of immersing said waste particles in a chemical disinfectant comprises immersing said waste particles in a liquid solution of sodium hypochlorite (NaOCl) adjusted to a pH in the range of about 4.0 to about 6.0 to produce a final concentration of 2,500 ppm hypochlorous acid (HOCl) which serves as the microbiocidal component of said disinfectant solution.